

General Biology  
AERIAL DISPERSAL OF PLANKTONIC ORGANISMS

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Dispersal of planktonic organisms may be influenced by the movements of macroscopic animals, precipitation, or other factors. Macroscopic animals, such as mammals, birds, or insects can transport planktonic organisms by moving between bodies of water. With a research station in close proximity to Lake Superior and one station approximately a mile away, aerial dispersal over short and long distances can be tested by restricting the access of macroscopic organisms to isolated microhabitats. This allows testing for dispersal of plankton by air currents and precipitation, excluding transport by other organisms.